RG104 E-1 Box 177

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., August 25, 1892.

The Superintendent, U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I have ordered the transfer of $50,000 in one cent pieces, which you probably received, and $50,000 five cent nickel pieces from the assistant treasury at New York to your mint for reissue.

I will thank you to inform me what stock of five cent, and one cent blanks uncoined you have on hand. I would also like you to consider the advisability of executing the manufacture of minor coinage blanks at your mint hereafter instead of giving them out by contract. I see no good reason why this cannot be done as it was formerly, as the mandatory coinage of silver dollars has ceased.

I addressed a telegram to Mr. Cobb from Squirrel Island, Maine, asking him to ascertain, confidentially, and inform me, how it happened that the three companies who bid for minor coinage blanks bid so nearly equal and yet at so large an advance over the late contract price. It looks to me as if it was a put up job. I am awaiting information on the subject and such advice as you may be pleased to offer in the matter. I certainly shall not consent to pay nearly 50 per cent more for these blanks than the late contract price, when I am not aware of any advance in the material composing

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them.

Very respectfully,

E. O. Lund

Director.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 177

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Very respectfully,
E.O. Leech
Director.